



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	DELTA, UT	Accident Number:	DEN82FA020
Date & Time:	01/17/1982, 1435 MST	Registration:	N91TW
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31T	Injuries:	3 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

APPROXIMATELY 1/2 MI FROM THE ARPT AFTER TAKEOFF, THE PLT NOTICED THE LEFT FRONT BAGGAGE DOOR PARTLY OPEN & MADE A LEFT TURN BACK TOWARD THE AIRSTRIP. AFTER THE TURN, THE BAGGAGE DOOR CAME COMPLETELY OPEN, THE LEFT WING DROPPED IMMEDIATELY & THE ACFT STALLED. THE PLT ADDED FULL POWER & LOWERED THE NOSE. WHEN HE RAISED THE NOSE NEAR THE GROUND, THE ACFT SHUDDERED & CRASHED. TWO RESCUE PERSONNEL, BOTH CERTIFICATED PILOTS, ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER THE ACCIDENT & FOUND THE NOSE BAGGAGE DOOR IN THE UNLOCKED POSITION WITH THE BAYONET PINS RETRACTED. A PIPER REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT IF THE LEFT SIDE NOSE BAGGAGE DOOR OF A PA-31T OPENED IN FLT THERE WOULD BE THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INTERRUPTION TO THE SMOOTH AIRFLOW THROUGH THE PROP, POSSIBLY REDUCING THE THRUST PRODUCED BY THE BLADES.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

1. (F) DOOR,CARGO/BAGGAGE - UNLOCKED
2. (F) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) DOOR,CARGO/BAGGAGE - OPEN
4. (F) PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE - DETERIORATED
6. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 520 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N91TW
Model/Series:	PA-31T PA-31T	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Operator:	DERRAL CHRISTENSEN	Engine Manufacturer:	P & W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-28
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DTA, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 220°
Temperature:	50° C	Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DELTA, UT	Destination:	LAS VEGAS, NV (LAS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Adopted Date:	01/17/1983
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .	

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.